



Reading for Structure and Context

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Structure

- Hierarchy of the structure of a text
 - Identifying thesis and topic sentences
 - Reverse outline

Example

“If there was a single moment when she felt a sense of the harmony between her instincts and her environment most clearly, it might have been on a Paris street in the sixth arrondissement one night shortly after the start of World War I. Stein and Picasso were walking home from a dinner, when a French military convoy rolled past them. But this convoy was different. It *looked* different: the sides of the trucks and the cabs had been splotted unevenly with different colors of paint. The two of them froze. Stein wrote later, ‘I very well remember being with Picasso on the Boulevard Raspail when the first camouflaged truck passed. It was at night, we had heard of camouflage but we had not yet seen it and Picasso amazed looked at it and then cried out, yes it is we who made it, that is Cubism!’ ”

- Main point
 - Harmony between instinct and environment
- Evidence
 - Camouflage
 - Cubism

Features of Academic Discourse

- Billboards
 - Announce the intention of the text
- Hedges
 - Phrases like “appears,” “seems,” “suggests”
- Signposts
 - Directions like “however,” “because,” “for example”
- Questions

Sentence Structure

- Introductory phrases
- Transition words and phrases
- Inserted information
 - The fact of the matter is, **however**, that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are, **despite their reputation and tastiness**, becoming less popular among high school students, according to a 2014 study.

Introductory Phrase

Transition Word

Inserted Information